

Message Text

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TAGS:ELAB, FAID, CY

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE AAFLI VISIT TO CYPRUS

1. OFFICIALS OF ASIAN-AMERICAN FREE LABOR INSTITUTE (AAFLI) HAVE INFORMED DEPARTMENT OF POSSIBLE RPT POSSIBLE VISIT TO CYPRUS BY REPRESENTATIVE OF AAFLI TOWARD END JULY. OFFICIALS SAID PURPOSE OF VISIT WOULD BE TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS BEGUN IN GENEVA AT ILO WITH BOTH GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOT TRADE UNION REPS ON POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE BY AAFLI TO CYPRIOT UNIONS. AAFLI SAID IT IN RECEIPT MORE THAN A YEAR AGO OF REQUEST FROM TURK CYPRIOTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN PURCHASING MEDICINES FOR LOCAL PHARMACIES RUN BY UNION AND MIGHT WELL AGREE TO SUCH ASSISTANCE. IF AGREED TO BY AAFLI, AFL-CIO IMPACT PROJECT MONEY WOULD BE USED, NOT RPT NOT FUNDS RECEIVED FROM AID.

2. DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AGREED THAT PROJECT TO PROVIDE SUCH MEDICINES WAS WORTHWHILE BUT STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF AAFLI REPS PROCEEDING WITH UTMOST CARE BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE IMPLI-
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CATIONS OF ASSISTANCE BY AMERICAN ORGANIZATION TO TURKISH

UNION ONLY. THEY URGED THAT THE PR ASPECTS BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AND CAUTIONED THAT A LOW PROFILE ON ASSISTANCE TO TURKS WOULD BE MOST PRUDENT COURSE BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE REACTION IN CYPRIOT PRESS WHICH CAPABLE OF PLAYING UP ESSENTIALLY SMALL MATTER INTO MAJOR ISSUE.

3. AAFLI OFFICIALS SAID THEY WERE WELL AWARE OF PROBLEM BUT FELT THEY COULD HANDLE IT IN COURSE OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH GREEKS. SHOULD LATTER EXPRESS INTEREST IN COMPARABLE ASSISTANCE, AAFLI WAS PREPARED TO GIVE IT FULL CONSIDERATION, BUT DOES NOT WANT TO GET INTO POSITION OF PROVIDING AID TO GREEK UNION AS QUID PRO QUO FOR ANY ASSISTANCE THEY MIGHT PROVIDE TO TURKS. TURKISH CYPRIOT REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IS ONE OF LONG STANDING WITH AAFLI AND THEY INCLINED TO PROCEED. ON OTHER HAND, DISCUSSIONS WITH GREEKS JUST INITIATED. IF LEGAL IMPEDIMENTS TO AID

ASSISTANCE WERE REMOVED OR IF IMPACT PROJECT MONEY COULD BE USED AND GREEK CYPRIOT UNIONS COME UP WITH FEASIBLE REQUEST, AAFLI VERY LIKELY WOULD PROCEED WITH THEM AS WELL. IN MEANTIME, HOWEVER, THEY WOULD NOT WISH TO HOLD UP ON TURKISH REQUEST.

4. PROPOSED IMPACT PROJECT WITH TURKISH CYPRIOT UNIONS IS SMALL ONE (ALL IMPACT PROJECTS ARE LIMITED BY AFL-CIO TO MAXIMUM OF \$5,000). IT STILL NOT RPT NOT CERTAIN THAT PROJECT WILL RECEIVE AFL-CIO APPROVAL NOR THAT AAFLI REPRESENTATIVE, ROBERT WHOLEY, WILL COME TO CYPRUS. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE EMBASSY AND REGIONAL LABATT TO STRESS IN ANY DISCUSSIONS OF MATTER WITH WHOLEY (WHO WAS NOT PRESENT AT WASHINGTON MEETINGS) TICKLISH NATURE OF ANY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO ONE GROUP ONLY ON CYPRUS. WHEN DEPARTMENT LEARNS OF EITHER DEFINITE DECISION TO ASSIST TURKS AND/OR APPROVAL OF WHOLEY VISIT TO CYPRUS, IT WILL INFORM EMBASSY. SISCO

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